What is claimed is:

- 1. A temperature control portion for pool or spa heater which is connectable to an external temperature regulating controller, said temperature control portion comprising:
- a. at least one primary temperature limiting control switch having a first temperature setpoint;
- b. at least one secondary temperature limiting control switch having a second temperature setpoint;
- c. a third switch adapted for connection with said external temperature regulating controller; and
- d. wherein said second temperature setpoint is higher than a maximum temperature setting on said external temperature regulating controller and lower than said first temperature setpoint.
- 2. The temperature control portion of claim 1 further comprising an on/off switch.
- 3. The temperature control portion of claim 1 wherein said second temperature setpoint is about 106 °F.
- 4. The temperature control portion of claim 1 wherein said at least one primary temperature limiting control switch further comprises first and second primary temperature limiting control switches, said first primary temperature limiting control switch having said first temperature setpoint, and said second primary temperature limiting control switch having a third temperature setpoint.

- 5. The temperature control portion of claim 4 wherein said first temperature setpoint is 150 °F and said third temperature setpoint is 135 °F.
- 6. The temperature control portion of claim 5 wherein said second temperature setpoint is about 106 °F.